## REMARKS

The Office action has been carefully considered. The Office action has rejected claims 18-33, 35-41, 46-50, 52, 59-68 and 72-87 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,905,492 to Straub et al (hereinafter "Straub"). The Office action has also rejected claim 34 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Straub in view of Official Notice taken by the Examiner. The Office action has rejected claims 42-45 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Straub in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,745,112 to Hirose (hereinafter "Hirose"). The Office action has rejected claims 56 under §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,061,695 to Slivka et al (hereinafter "Slivka") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,877,765 to Dickman et al (hereinafter "Dickman"). By present amendment, claims 18-50, 52, 56, 59-68 and 72-87 are canceled without prejudice. Claims 88-142 have been added as new. Applicants submit that the claims as filed were patentable over the prior art of record, and that the amendments herein are for purposes of clarifying the claims and/or for expediting allowance of the claims and not for reasons related to patentability. Regarding the rejections, applicants respectfully disagree and traverse these rejections. For the reasons discussed in detail below, all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants thanks the Examiner for the interview held (by telephone) on June 29, 2004. During the interview, the Examiner and applicants' attorney discussed the claims

with respect to the prior art. The essence of applicants' position is incorporated in the remarks below.

Applicants' technique is generally directed towards a shell user interface that provides for an aggregation of local and web information on a personal computer. The shell user interface includes multiple pages that are interconnected through hyperlinks. The pages are arranged in a hierarchical manner and form a single unified manner for accessing programs, documents, system information, and devices regardless of source location (whether local or remote). Programs, documents and websites may be registered with the multiple-page shell user interface and information about the programs, such as categories and capabilities may be written into a database. Additionally, programs, documents, and websites may also be registered with particular pages.

The shell user interface provides one place from which a user may access resources, without opening separate programs and menus to locate the resources. This shell user interface simplifies locating resources. For example, rather than clicking on file exploring software, such as Microsoft® Internet Explorer, to locate local files and Internet content, along with a system toolbar to access system resources and external devices, a user can use the shell user interface of the present invention to locate the files, content and resources.

Note that the above description is for informational purposes only, and should not be used to interpret the claims, which are discussed below.

In contrast to the present invention, Straub is generally directed towards a method for updating themes for an operating system, e.g., by periodically retrieving updating

resources from a remote computer at which the updating resources are stored by a theme provider, so as to provide continually updating enhancements to the graphical user interface display consistent with the theme's topic. Significantly, Straub fails to teach, suggest or provide any motivation for a shell user interface having multiple pages hierarchically arranged and interconnected through hyperlinks. Further, Straub fails to teach, suggest, or provide any motivation for placing links to tasks of an application program in a shell user interface.

Among other limitations, new independent claims 88, 89, 93, 99, 101, 118, 126, 135, and 136 generally recite subject matter of "a shell user interface having a plurality of pages, wherein the plurality of pages are arranged in a hierarchy" and "registering a resource with the shell user interface as one of a group of resources to be display on a page of the plurality of pages." For example, claim 88 recites among other limitations "registering a computer resource with a shell user interface as one of a group of computer resources displayed as a link upon a page within a plurality of pages of the shell user interface, wherein the plurality of pages are arranged in a hierarchy" and "displaying on the page in the shell user interface the link associated with the computer resource registered as one of the group of computer resources." Claim 89 recites among other limitations "registering a resource with a shell user interface as one of a group of resources to be display on a page, the resource including at least one of a document, a program, a task stored in the computer system, and a device of the computer system." Claim 93 recites among other limitations "registering a task that is available in an application program with a shell user interface as one of a group of resources to be

displayed on a page." Claim 99 recites among other limitations "registering tasks that are available for a plurality of application programs with a shell user interface" and "grouping a set of the tasks to be displayed on a page of the shell user interface." Claim 101 recites among other limitation "providing a shell user interface having a plurality of pages including a first page, wherein the plurality of pages are arranged in a hierarchy" and "registering files with the shell user interface as one of a group of resources to be displayed on the first page." Claim 118 recites among other limitations "registering executable code with a shell user interface as one of a group of resources to be displayed on a first page within a plurality of pages of the shell user interface, wherein the plurality of pages are arranged in a hierarchy." Claim 126 recites among other limitations "registering executable code with the shell user interface as one of a group of resources to be displayed on a page in the shell user interface." Claim 135 recites among other limitations "providing a shell user interface having a plurality of pages, wherein the plurality of pages are arranged in a hierarchy" and "registering executable code with the shell user interface as one of a group of resources to be displayed on a page in the shell user interface." Claim 136 recites among other limitations "providing a shell user interface having a plurality of pages, wherein the plurality of pages are arranged in a hierarchy" and "registering a resource with the shell user interface as one of a group of resources to be displayed on a page in the shell user interface."

Straub fails to teach, suggest or provide any motivation for a shell user interface having multiple pages hierarchically arranged and interconnected through hyperlinks.

Further, Straub fails to teach, suggest, or provide any motivation for registering resources

with the shell user interface and placing links to tasks of an application program in a shell user interface. Notwithstanding, the Office action cited FIGURE 6 and column 15, lines 7-45 to allege that Straub discloses "a shell user interface having a plurality of pages." See Office Action, p. 3. However, while the cited text of Straub mention the word "pages," the pages are not pages of a "shell user interface" as recited in independent claims 88, 89, 93, 99, 101, 118, 126, 135, and 136. Furthermore, resources such as a program, document, task, website or device are not registered with the shell user interface as one of a group of resources to be displayed on a page of the shell user interface. Rather, the resources mentioned by Straub are multi-media resources such as still images, video, sounds, animations, and text that are conceptually related to a topic and theme used to alter various sensory elements of the interface, such as the wallpaper, the mouse pointer, the icons, and the sounds presented in the interface. These multi-media resources of a theme may be applied to the graphical user interface by setting identifying information into a system registry or configuration files. See Straub column 6 lines 31-50. Nowhere in Straub is there any mention of registering resources such as program, document, task, website or device with the shell user interface as one of a group of resources to be displayed on a page of the shell user interface.

Moreover, one of skill in the art would not be motivated to modify Straub, which deals with applying a theme to an already-existing user interface, to reach the subject matter of these claims. Straub is silent as to anything remotely resembling modifying the already-existing user interface into a shell user interface having hierarchically arranged pages.

In order to support an anticipation rejection, the Office Action must show that each and every element of the claimed invention is disclosed in a single reference, and that each element is arranged as in the claim. Straub does not teach or even suggest a shell user interface having a plurality of hierarchically arranged pages, let alone providing hyperlinks between the pages. Moreover, Straub does not teach or even suggest registering resources such as program, document, task, website or device with the shell user interface as one of a group of resources to be displayed on a page of the shell user interface. For at least the forgoing reasons, Straub fails to meet these requirements, and thus applicants submit that claims 88, 89, 93, 99, 101, 118, 126, 135, and 136 and their dependent claim are clearly patentable over Straub as a matter of law.

Furthermore, new independent claim 125 recites among other limitations "providing a shell user interface that enables the display of one or more pages" and "making an option available while displaying each of a plurality of pages, the option being associated with a file system comprising a plurality of favorites folders." The Office action rejected canceled claim 56 with these same limitations under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Slivka in view of Dickman. Applicants point out that the Office action has twice failed to address applicants' position in response to the December 4, 2002 Office Action and the March 5, 2004 Office Action that Slivka does not qualify as prior art under 35 USC §103(c). As was set forth in the attached STATEMENT TO ESTABLISH COMMON OWNERSHIP attached to the response to the December 4, 2002 Office Action and the March 5, 2004 Office Action, applicants submitted that the current application and the patent of Slivka were, at the time the

invention of the present application was made, owned by, or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same entity. Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 103(c), applicants request a third time that this reference be withdrawn with respect to the rejection of any claims. For at least this additional reason, claim 125 is patentable over the prior art of record.

## Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that claims 88-142 of the present application are patentable over the prior art of record, and that the application is in good and proper form for allowance. A favorable action on the part of the Examiner is earnestly solicited.

If in the opinion of the Examiner a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (425) 836-3030.

Respectfully submitted,

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## STATEMENT TO ESTABLISH COMMON OWNERSHIP

(Regarding U.S. Patent No. 6,061,695)

Applicants, through the attorney of record, state that the present application and cach of the above-identified references were, at the time the invention was made, owned by, or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same entity.

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